by high altitude terrain and relatively thin habitation which has resulted in inadequate road connectivity in areas close to the border. Many settlements as well as border posts are not connected by road. However, the Government proposes to undertake construction of 27 road links in the area of responsibility of ITBP in five States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh for providing better road connectivity to ITBP border out posts.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) The question does not arise.

Talks with NDFB

2355. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons as to why the Government have not yet initiated the formal discussion with the armed outfit National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) though both have agreed upon to resolve the crisis through negotiation after having the cease fire agreement signed;

(b) whether the NDFB has raised any specific demands before Government so far; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) has not yet submitted its demands to the Government.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, do not arise.

Discrimination in providing freedom fighters pensions

2356. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of freedom fighters and Indian National Army persons in the country, as on 30th September, 2005;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a vast difference in pension payment between the freedom fighters and Indian National Army persons;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Railroad facilities on the pattern of freedom fighters are provided to the Indian National Army persons; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Union Government to do away the discrimination and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) As per available records, since the inception of the regular scheme in 1972, a total of 1,69,925 persons have been sanctioned pension till 30th September, 2005. These include 22,467 participants of the Indian National Army. Data Relating to living freedom fighters currently drawing pension is not maintained.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The general category of freedom fighters and freedom fighters from the Indian National Army are entitled to the same amount of pension and concomitant facilities.

(d) Does not arise.

Use of Satellite Phones by Terrorists

2357. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the security forces are facing a lot of problems in tackling terrorism since the increased use of satellite phones by terrorists;

(b) if so, whether this issue was discussed in the meeting of senior officers in the Ministry of Home Affairs;

(c) whether the Central Government propose to provide Satellite phone interceptor to States which are fighting against terrorists;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (e) There are some operational difficulties being experienced in this regard. Suitable corrective steps have been initiated.